

ST AMBROSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL



POLICY ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

September 2025

Review: September 2026

This policy has been written in consultation with staff and governors of St. Ambrose Preparatory School and with due regard to the school's mission statement:

At St Ambrose Preparatory School we aim to provide an independent Catholic education for boys and girls of all faiths aged 3 to 11; St Ambrose is an inclusive school where the Gospel teachings and our school values are at the centre of everything that happens in our school family. At St Ambrose Preparatory School we strive to develop happy, fulfilled, well educated, confident and caring children who know and understand the love, joy and peace of Jesus; and to show our Faith by the way we live, showing care and consideration for each other, those around us and the environment.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be an exemplar Edmund Rice School, with an enviable reputation amongst our peers, both as an organisation and for the services and facilities we provide, making us first choice for parents and pupils in our geographic area.

Our Ethos & Values

At St Ambrose we provide a Catholic school community in which pupils feel welcome, safe, recognised for their individuality – supported by a community of love, and affection. We strive to live out the Gospel in all aspects of school life and policy, following Blessed Edmund's footsteps.

St Ambrose Preparatory School
Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

At St Ambrose Preparatory School we are joyful learners and are inspired to always do our best. We nurture the many gifts we have been given and seek to use them wisely for the benefit of ourselves and others. We put love into action each day so we are advocates of change in the world, Living the Gospel and the Catholic faith and celebrating the values of Blessed Edmund Rice, with our family and the whole Ambrosian community.

‘Have courage, the good seed will grow up in the children’s hearts’

Blessed Edmund Rice

Ethos of an Edmund Rice School:

The bond between the Edmund Rice schools in England is our commitment to ‘The Eight Essentials’ drawn from the educational charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. As an Edmund Rice school, we are rooted in the Gospel and animated by the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The Edmund Rice Values are:

- **CELEBRATE** Jesus’ values in all we do
- **GROW THROUGH** and talk about our beliefs
- **BUILD** an inclusive community in school and beyond
- **HELP** people who need it
- **BE THE BEST** I can be
- **CREATE** a better future for everyone
- **LIVE** by Jesus’ example
- **CARE** for one another and our world

The Context of this Prayer and Liturgy Policy

The celebration of Catholic liturgies and prayers is an integral part of learning and teaching. It enables the school community to become reflective, experience the presence of God and should work to develop a mature spiritual life. We believe that Christian worship at St Ambrose Preparatory School is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God’s invitation to enter into a relationship with Godself, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

Celebration, both Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic, is at the heart of life at St Ambrose Preparatory School and central to the Catholic tradition. It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and

educational needs of all who share in it

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

Statement of Requirement

St Ambrose Preparatory School provides an act of daily collective worship (prayer and liturgy) for all pupils (Section 70, 1988 Education Act) that is in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines, and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

St Ambrose Preparatory School recognises and respects that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children up to the age of 16 from prayer and liturgy (School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s.71(1A)).

St Ambrose Preparatory School's provision for prayer and liturgy will fulfil pupils' entitlement to experience the range of liturgical treasures of the Church, including a shared repertoire of prayers and liturgical music with which pupils in the school will be familiar.

Prayer and liturgy are not designated curriculum time. In the context of St Ambrose Preparatory School, times of prayer and liturgy are not considered to be part of the allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education.

Responsibility

Governance

The governors, as guardians of St Ambrose Preparatory School's life and mission, have a responsibility to ensure that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- there is a named person(s) who is responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school (the Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator)
- the prayer and liturgy policy is updated regularly and shared with all stakeholders
- there is a budget for prayer and liturgy that reflects its centrality to the life of a Catholic school.

Headteacher

The headteacher, as the spiritual leader of the school as a Catholic community, ensures that: prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*

- they work in partnership with the leader(s) for prayer and liturgy

- those responsible for prayer and liturgy in the school have been given appropriate training and formation to ensure that all guidance is followed and adhered to
- there are suitable resources for prayer and liturgy in the school.

Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator

The Prayer and Liturgy Coordinator ensures that:

- prayer and liturgy are central to the Catholic life of the school and therefore are in line with the guidance set out by the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- there is an Annual Plan of Provision for prayer and liturgy across the school year which identifies liturgical seasons and key celebrations, as well as opportunities for the celebration of the Sacraments
- there is daily planned prayer for all pupils, appropriate to age and ability, as outlined in the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory*
- pupils are supported in their liturgical formation to take an active role in the planning, preparation, and delivery of prayer and liturgy according to their age and capacity, and in a manner which facilitates their progressive participation
- resources to support the planning of prayer and liturgy are appropriate and readily available to staff and pupils
- induction on prayer and liturgy takes place for new members of staff as required
- staff have access to effective training and formation opportunities
- monitoring and evaluation of prayer and liturgy take place regularly and feed back into planning for future liturgies
- monitoring of prayer and liturgy is reported to the headteacher and governing body to support whole-school development and the Catholic life of the school
- there is collaboration with local clergy and parishes
- liaison with the Diocesan Advisory Service and others is maintained to ensure they keep updated with best practice.

Principles

All prayer and liturgy at St Ambrose Preparatory School will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Catholic character
- Give children positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age, aptitude and family backgrounds in order to prepare them for the liturgical life of the Church

In order to do this, celebrations will:

- Be appropriately paced
- Include a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings

Aims

We believe that collective worship at St Ambrose Preparatory School aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to'

Overview of prayer and liturgy provision

St Ambrose Preparatory's prayer and liturgy provision is expressed when the school or class gathers together for:

- Eucharist and Liturgical Services
- Assembly
- Prayer
- Hymn Practices

Organisation of Prayer and Liturgy:

- Monday – Whole school Gospel Assembly using Ten Ten as the main resource and structure
- Wednesday – Whole school hymn practice which begins with prayer and a mid-week revisitation of the Gospel message
- Friday – Celebration Assembly led by the Headteacher where the Gospel message of the week is revisited.
- Regular class-led assemblies throughout the year with a religious focus
- Daily class prayer and liturgy increasingly planned and delivered by the children themselves as they progress throughout the school. In KS1, children will contribute to the planning and delivery of prayer and liturgy with support and direction from their teacher.
- Daily prayers shared in each class
- Stay and Pray sessions weekly which involve our parents in the prayer life of the school
- Justice Group lead prayer and liturgy with classes and small groups

Collective Worship Policy

- Whole school Masses throughout the year, following the liturgical season of the church's year
- KS2 Masses at St Ambrose College and Holy Angels Church.
- Rosary Club in October and May

Class prayer and liturgy is planned and recorded on a Liturgy Planner and stored with samples of activities completed in the prayer and liturgy book for each class. Teachers use Ten Ten resources as a basis for class prayer and liturgy.

Prayer and liturgy within the classroom can take the form of:

- Prayers at the beginning and end of the day
- Grace before and after meals
- Spontaneous prayer
- Reflection
- Meditation
- Prayers through singing praises
- Planned class prayer and liturgy sessions
- Classes can choose to use the church or go outside as a place to experience prayer and liturgy

Mass and Service Overview at St Ambrose Preparatory School

Autumn Term	• Start of Year Mass • Harvest Mass • All Saints/Souls Assembly • Advent Mass • St Ambrose Feast Day • Carol Concert in church (KS2) • Nativity Plays
Spring Term	• First Forgiveness Mass • Ash Wednesday Service • Lenten Mass • Station of the Cross Prayer Stations • Easter Play
Summer Term	• Edmund Rice Mass and Feast Day • Edmund Rice Awards (P4) • First Holy Communion Mass • St Peter and Paul Mass • Leavers Mass

Resourcing

Prayer and liturgy is central to life in St Ambrose Preparatory School and this is reflected in the budget allocation and available resources, including staff time and dedicated spaces for

prayer and liturgy. The Catholic character of the school is reflected in religious artefacts and images on display throughout the building. A dedicated space for prayer and liturgy is found in the school chapel which is regularly updated to reflect the Church's liturgical season. All staff are enabled to fulfil their responsibility to contribute to the prayer and liturgical life of the school.

Resources for prayer and liturgy are found in each classroom. These are updated regularly and contain a collection of religious artefacts, holy books, symbols, cloths linked to liturgical seasons of the church and candles.

Training and formation

All new staff are supported during induction and beyond, so that they fully understand the responsibility they carry within their individual role for leading prayer and liturgy in the school. Any individual training needs are identified and addressed through training and formation. There is also an opportunity for whole-staff professional development at least once a year, so that all staff understand the importance of prayer and liturgy and relevant staff are well supported to lead as required.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the quality and impact of prayer and liturgy takes place regularly, and at least annually, and involve all key stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff and governors. Areas for development are identified and issues raised are actioned and evidenced as appropriate.

The RE Lead along with the Headteacher, on a termly basis, conducts a book look and planning scrutiny, and feedback is provided with next steps. Each term, learning walks are conducted and a discussion with pupils about their learning in RE takes place. Pupil voice is carried out as part of this monitoring process throughout the year. At the end of each branch, staff participate in moderation of RE books to verify the pupils have been accurately assessed. SLT meet with the RE Lead to monitor progress and impact.

Special Educational Needs and Disability/Equal Opportunities

All pupils, regardless of ability, race or gender, will be given equal access to prayer and liturgy. Classroom and prayer room organisation and management should take account of such issues and materials used will be of an unbiased nature. Appropriate support is given to children with special educational needs or disabilities. The staff are made aware of these children through the SEND register. They are given the necessary support and care to include them fully in prayer and liturgy.

Monitoring and review

Every three years the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the Subject Leader, the Headteacher and the nominated governor and the necessary recommendations for

improvement will be made to the Governors.

Policy reviewed by:	Mrs. M C Cooke
Review Date:	September 2025
Next Review Due:	September 2026